

there must be
more to **life...**



*Discover
Jesus.*

Reflection - Diocese of Worcester

Strictly speaking it's not a season at all - in the way that for example Advent or Easter are. The four Sundays which make up the "season" are a continuation of 'ordinary time' and used to be part of a series of nine Sundays before Advent. The liturgical colour for the season is red or green.

On these differently "ordinary" Sundays themes and ideas are drawn together in our worship - the most significant of which are:

The reign of God

- Our calling as God's Kingdom People to live as those who reflect God's loving, compassionate, just and liberating life now: to live as Signs of the Kingdom.

The notes below offer ideas, questions and resources related to the Kingdom Season. You may find some of them useful in encouraging growth and development of the Diocesan Kingdom Vision in your context.

1. For all that has been... Thanks!

The liturgical year draws to its close during this time; the Feast of Christ the King is its culmination. This "season" then offers us an opportunity to look back, take stock, to give thanks and to prepare to move forward as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the child Jesus - God with us - at Christmas. It is a time to ponder the mystery of the Kingdom which beckons us and yet is among us.

It's an ideal time to ask again how we can live more fully as God's Kingdom People.

Here are a few suggestions:

- This may be a good time to reflect together on our stewardship - of gifts, time and money
- Tell stories of how God has guided us together as his Kingdom people individually and together.
- In worship present baskets of "letters" to God listing the things for which we want to give thanks
- Celebrate what has been - and begin to plan next steps in our journey as God's Kingdom People (New Year Resolutions!)
- Acknowledge our failings to follow and need of forgiveness and reconciliation
- Formally renew our commitment to journey together

By James Atkinson

Sonnet:

Our King is calling from the hungry furrows
Whilst we are cruising through the aisles of plenty,
Our hoardings screen us from the man of sorrows,
Our soundtracks drown his murmur, 'I am thirsty'.
He stands in line to sign in as a stranger
And seek a welcome from the world he made,
We see him only as a threat, a danger,
He asks for clothes, we strip - search him instead.
And if he should fall sick then we take care
That he does not infect our private health,
We lock him in the prisons of our fear
Lest he unlock the prisons of our wealth.
But still on Sunday we shall stand and sing
The praises of our hidden Lord and King

Guite, M, Sounding the Seasons: Poetry for the Christian Year (Canterbury Press 2012)